heavy throwforward of the ongoing projects and acute resource constraints, gauge conversion of Kalol-Kadi-Katosan Road could not be found feasible.

Gauge conversion of Ranuj-Patan section (13.3 kms.) of suggested metre gauge line has already been taken up as a part of Bhildi-Viramgam gauge conversion project and targeted for completion during 2007-08.

Chain pulling

2867. MAULANA OBAIDULLAH KHAN AZMI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of trains prone to chain pulling;

(b) the details of places where menace is rampant; and

(c) the steps taken to remedy the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (c) Some sporadic incidents of alarm chain pulling do come to notice from time to time. However, train-wise and section-wise information is not maintained. Whenever incidents of alarm Chain Pulling are reported in a train or section, drives are intensified on such trains/sections by ticket checking staff with the help of Government Railway Police/Railway Protection Force staff to curb this menace. The passengers found misusing the alarm chain without valid reasons are prosecuted and First Information Report is lodged against them under the relevant provisions of the Railways Act. Besides this, the travelling public is also sensitized through various media to use the alarm chain judiciously.

Retail hub near Railway Stations

†2868. SHRI BALAVANT *ALIAS* BALAPTE:
SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS:
SHRI VINAY KATIYAR:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are contemplating to open retail hub near railway stations;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have received any kind of applications from the private companies in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether Government are formulating any plan to ensure participation of educated unemployed in opening retain hub of this kind; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (d) It has been decided to explore the feasibility of attracting additional transport volumes by leveraging surplus railway land through partership with agri-retail chain using spare-able land at suitable locations. Agri Retail Chain operators have expressed/desired to participate in it.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Does not arise.

Modernisation of Railway Workshops

2869. SHRI BALAVANT *ALIAS* BAL APTE:
SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the railway workshops in the country on date, zone-wise;

(b) the funds allotted and spent on modernization/expansion of Railway workshops during each of the last three years and the current year;

(c) whether some of the Railway works are on verge of closure;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps taken by the Railways for its revival?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) List of Railway workshops (Mechanical Department)